

KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

STAFF NOTE

Action/Consent Item:

Appointment to the State Textbook Commission

Applicable Statute or Regulation:

KRS 156.405 (2)

Action Question:

Should the Kentucky Board of Education approve the recommendation for appointments to the State Textbook Commission?

Background/History:

Existing Policy. In accordance with KRS 156.405(2), the Kentucky Board of Education, upon the recommendation of the chief state school officer, approves the appointments of members to the State Textbook Commission for terms of four years. Two appointments are made each year with the exception of four appointments made every fourth year.

The State Textbook Commission oversees the state adoption process for textbooks and instructional materials. It consists of ten members who represent the various areas of the commonwealth--two (2) parents, two (2) administrators, five (5) teachers, and one (1) higher education representative. Their responsibilities include approving substitutions, establishing the state multiple list, approving membership for a statewide review team, and developing an evaluation instrument for each adoption group with the assistance of the review team.

Individuals currently serving on the Commission are as follows:

John W. Hardy, administrator, Campbell County High School (Campbell Co.)

Katrina Slone, teacher, Hindman Elementary (Knott Co.)

Natalie Stiglitz, higher education faculty, University of Louisville, Louisville (Jefferson County)

Denishia Martin, teacher, Warren East High School, Bowling Green (Warren County)

L. J. Harville, teacher, Belfry Middle and High School (Pike County)

Karen Roberts, teacher, Longfellow Primary School, Mayfield (Graves Co.)

Cheryl W. Smith, parent, Hardin County

Donna Lovell, administrator, Berea Independent Schools (Madison Co.)

Barbara M. Waltrip, teacher, Audubon Elementary (Daviess Co.)

Dr. Deneia Thomas, parent, Fayette County

Policy Issues and Options:

According to KRS 156.405(2), the State Textbook Commission is required to have ten members. As of June 1, 2009, the terms of L.J. Harville and Karen Roberts will expire, creating two vacancies on the Commission.

If the two nominees mentioned below are approved, the composition of the State Textbook Commission will represent all areas of the state, will consist of two (2) males and eight (8) females, will be composed of one (1) African-American and nine (9) Caucasians, and meet the requirements set forth in statute.

Options are:

1. Approve the appointments.
2. Delay action and request new applicants.
3. Deny the appointments.

Staff Recommendation and Rationale:

Staff proposes that the board approve the appointments of the following persons to the State Textbook Commission. Each applicant is fully qualified to be a member of the Commission.

Catherine R. Fernandez is the K-12 ELL (English Language Learner) district-wide teacher for the Henderson County Schools. Ms. Fernandez has taught K-12 students for 24 years. Ms. Fernandez believes textbooks and instructional materials are resources for both teachers and students and should enhance the learning that takes place in the classroom. She stated in her application that textbooks and other instructional materials are resources for units of study and should be aligned to state and national standards.

David M. McFadden is the Band Director, General Music, and Art/Humanities teacher at North Laurel High School in London, Kentucky. Mr. McFadden has taught for 15 years. Mr. Madden believes textbooks are resources that support instruction and should not be the sole resource for the delivery of content and that instructional resources should be aligned with the Program of Studies, Core Content for Assessment, and National Standards.

Impact on Getting to Proficiency:

This process ensures that teachers and students have access to the most current instructional resources in a variety of formats and learning levels.

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